

REMARKS

Claim 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1, 10 and 11 are amended.

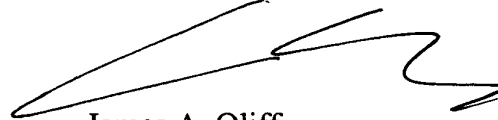
In reply to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Species I, Figure 4(b), with traverse. Claims 1-11 read on Species I.

Also, claims 1-11 are generic to all species, as indicated in the Election of Species Requirement.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 30, 2006

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